

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 11, 2004 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 36, 37 and 46-51 have been allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification. Claims 1-15, 36, 37 and 46-56 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 15 and 52-56 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Long (U.S. Patent 6,644,421 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Long discloses a housing assembly 10 having a main shell body 11. The main shell body 11 has axially extending slots 26 cut through its wall to permit external transmission of radio waves from a transmitter 67 carried in the housing assembly 10. (See column 2, lines 56-60.) The transmitter 67 and a battery 98 can be assembled and removed from a chamber 68 of the housing assembly 10 through an end piece 12 by installing or removing a plug 71. (See FIG. 1B and column 3, lines 64-67.)

A. Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, and 15

Claim 1 recites a sonde housing having a main body. A recess is located within the main body for radially receiving a sonde.

Long does not disclose a main body having a recess that receives a sonde. The Examiner characterizes a slot 26 formed in the shell body 11 of Long as a recess for receiving a sonde. The slots 26 formed in the shell body 11, however, permit external transmission of radio waves from the transmitter 67 of Long; none of the slots 26 receive the transmitter 67, as required by claim 1.

In addition, the housing 10 of Long does not have a recess that radially receives a sonde, as recited in claim 1. In contrast, the transmitter 67 and battery 98 of Long are axially inserted into the shell body 11 by removal of a plug 71; not radially inserted into the shell body 11.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, and depend claims 2, 10, 11 and 15 are patentable.

B. Claims 52, 53, and 56

Claims 52, 53, and 56 each recite a sonde housing having a main body with a recess located within the main body for radially receiving a sonde. At least for similar reasons as discussed with regards to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 52, 53, and 56 are patentable.

C. Claim 54

Claim 54 recites a sonde housing including a housing body with a fluid passage extending through the housing body. A recess is located within the housing body for housing a sonde. The recess is isolated from the fluid passage.

Long does not disclose a housing body having a recess that receives a sonde. As previously discussed, the slots 26 formed in the shell body 11 of Long permit external transmission of radio waves from a transmitter 67; none of the slots 26 house the transmitter, as required by claim 54.

Further, Long does not disclose a recess for housing a sonde that is isolated from the fluid passage of the housing body. Rather, the transmitter 67 of Long is housed within a chamber containing fluid, whereby "the transmitter 67 is surrounded by this fluid so that full cooling of the transmitter is obtained." Column 4, lines 23-26. In Long, the transmitter is cooled by contact with the fluid instead of being isolated from the fluid, as required by claim 54.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 54 is patentable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Long (U.S. Patent 6,644,421 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 3 and 12 depend upon claim 1. In view of the remarks regarding independent claim 1, further discussion regarding the independent patentability of dependent claims 3 and 12 is believed to be unnecessary. Applicants submit that dependent claims 3 and 12 are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 36, 37 and 46-51 are allowed.

The Examiner objected to claims 4-9, 13 and 14, but indicated that claims 4-9, 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-15, 36, 37 and 46-56) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

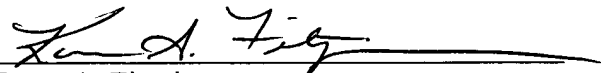
Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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Karen A. Fitzsimmons
Reg. No. 50,470
KAF:cjm